WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of color image processing, comprising the following steps:
   - the color image is converted into an intermediate image comprising components that depend solely on the H and S components of the original image in an HSV or HLS representation;
   - the intermediate image comprising at least two components X and Y, determined by functions especially of the H component, these functions taking the same value when the H component is zero or equal to one;
   - a new image comprising only one component is generated from the intermediate image, the component of this new image being a function of the components of the intermediate image.

2. A method of color image processing according to the claim 1, wherein the components X and Y are determined by functions not only of the H component, but also of the S component, these functions tending towards zero when the S component tends towards zero.

3. A method of color image processing according to the claim 1, wherein the functions of the component S are monotonic and continuous functions.

4. A method of color image processing according to claim 1, wherein the new image is generated in keeping only the first component of the Karhunen-Loève transformation or a linear approximation of this transformation.

5. A method of color image processing according to the claim 1, wherein the new image is generated by projecting the components of the intermediate image in the plane in which the dynamic range or mean standard deviation is the greatest.

6. A method of color image processing according to claim 1, wherein a filtering is performed on the darkest and the lightest pixels, which represent a determined fraction of the total number of pixels of the image.

7. A method of color image processing according to claim 1, wherein the dynamic range of the new image is adjusted to the total available dynamic range.